

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, to mark this anniversary is also to mark 100 years of corporate greed and exploitation. The CPR has apparently recognized this by trying to outdo itself in this anniversary year with an act of unsurpassed corporate cruelty and miserliness, that being to take away arbitrarily the pass rights of all of their pensioners, driving the last spike into the remaining dignity of all of those who, as the ad so piously sings, "Work the CP railway line." These people are now to be cut off from the fruits of their labour.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, as in days of old, and even now, in mine, mill, factory, and across the prairies, from farm kitchen to farm kitchen, let the cry ring out: "God damn the CPR".

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

SITUATION IN QUEBEC

Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, according to the latest economic indicators, Quebec's economy is continuing its sustained progress in 1985. Retail sales have increased 11 per cent between September 1984 and August 1985. The increase in capital expenditures is expected to continue. We can say that the private sector is responding favourably to the first measures taken by the Mulroney Government.

From January to August, 1985, the value of construction starts increased 23 per cent compared with the same period last year. Thanks to our policies, 74,000 new jobs have been created in Quebec since September 1984.

According to a recent survey conducted by the Canadian Federation for Independent Business, 37 per cent of small- and medium-sized businesses intend to increase their capital spending between now and the end of this year. Furthermore, 26 per cent of these businesses intend to hire staff, and 41 per cent are planning to increase their working capital.

These figures show once again that our economy's performance has improved considerably since a Conservative Government was elected last year. This is a real injection of optimism!

As soon as our various oppositions decide to stress the positive things this Government has done, the economic skies will be even more serene over Canada, and the prophets of doom confounded. I say to the people of Quebec and Canada: Remember the disastrous legacy we were left by the Liberals! Now, we are gradually making things better, on my honour as a Beauceron!

S.O. 22

THE ARTS

ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, from November 9 to 14, 1985, the most important cultural event in the entire Abitibi-Témiscamingue region will take place in my riding.

At that time, Mr. Speaker, the cities of Rouyn and Noranda will be hosting the 4th International Film Festival of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, an annual event that is getting more and more attention from all over Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote two comments made by well known Quebec journalists at the end of the third festival. Richard Guay of *Le Devoir* said: This is the most important annual regional film event in Quebec. This is what Minou Petrowski had to say: "I appreciated the efficient way things were organized, and the cordial and considerate attitude of the organizers, something that is entirely absent from other festivals".

Mr. Speaker, this festival has gone far beyond our borders to become a truly national and international event. The Abitibi-Témiscamingue region has opened its doors to the world and revealed the hospitality, warmth and efficiency of our people.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the entire team that works year-round to make this festival a success and express the hope that the Abitibi-Témiscamingue International Film Festival will have a long life.

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[English]

SHIPBUILDING

SHORTAGE OF ORDERS

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, according to industry figures, the Canadian shipbuilding industry has its slimmest order book since the start of the Second World War. This can hardly come as news of the Government. Not only once, twice, but five times in the past year the Government has been asked to explain when the all-too-long promised Government position on the Canadian shipbuilding industry would be revealed, and each time a Minister has risen to tell the House that the shipbuilding industry is indeed a top priority and that action would soon come.

If a "top priority" means wasting a year, I wonder what these Ministers do with those issues that they feel are not quite so important.

DRIE has dismissed pleas from industry and labour alike to reinstate a 9 per cent shipbuilding subsidy. We are the only nation that does not support this most basic element of the national economy with some form of assistance.